

1998 COLORADO WEATHER SUMMARY IN BRIEF

(Source: Colorado Climate Center, Colorado State University)

January - The month was mostly warm and dry. Scattered precipitation occurred during most of the month in the mountains and western valleys and the northwest quarter of the state received about average precipitation for the month, but the rest of the state remained dry. Temperatures were much above average across the state except for January 7-8 and 21-24 when cooler than average temperatures moved across the state.

February - The mountains and western valleys had the most days with precipitation, but ended the month at average to below average precipitation. The foothills had significant precipitation only during the 16th - 18th. The Eastern Plains had storms only on the 9th and 10th and again on the 16th and 17th but ended up with above average totals for the month, especially in the northeast corner. Temperatures were above average across the Eastern Plains and western valleys but averaged below average in the southern foothills. Cooler than average temperatures prevailed across the state on the 26th through the 28th.

March - Precipitation was mostly average to above average for much of the state, but the northeast was drier than average for the month. There were three periods of precipitation during the month: March 4-8 in the mountains and western valleys and in the foothills on the 7th; March 16-19 in the foothills and across the Eastern Plains; and at the end of the month mostly in the mountains and western valleys with a little along the foothills. Temperatures were generally cooler than average during the first half of the month and warmer than average during the last half.

April - The foothills received up to two times the average precipitation for the month while the rest of the state was average to dry. The northwest, southwest and north had less than 50 percent of average; the central mountains had up to 150 percent; and portions of the southeast had more than double the average precipitation. Temperatures were average to cool across the state for most of the month, except the mountains which were about average overall.

May - May was very warm and dry across most of the state with several stations reporting no precipitation and about half of the stations reporting fewer than five days with measurable moisture. Some areas of the North Eastern Plains received average precipitation for the month, but most of the state received less than 50 percent of their average precipitation. Temperatures averaged 2 to 4 degrees above average for most of the state.

June - The northwest corner of the state received twice the average amount of precipitation during the month while the southern half of the state was very dry, with most stations reporting less than half the average amount of precipitation for the month. It was quite wet in the northern mountains where some stations recorded 15 days with measurable precipitation. Temperatures in the northwest corner were more than 4 degrees below average and the rest of the state about 2 degrees below average. It was cooler than average for most of the month but warmer during the last week.

July - Portions of the Eastern Plains and western valleys had more than twice the average amount of precipitation during the month and most other areas of the state also received significant moisture. There was precipitation every day of the month somewhere in the state. Widespread storms occurred July 7-11 and from the 22nd to the end of the month. Temperatures for the month were more than 2 degrees above average in the mountains and slightly above average in most other areas except the southwest which averaged slightly below average.

August - The Eastern Plains were mostly cool and wet while the western valleys were very dry and warm. The southeast area of the state had twice as much rain as normal, but the northeast area and the mountain valleys received less than half the average amount of precipitation. Temperatures were warm in the west and cool in the east. The first half of the month was cool across the state, especially the Eastern Plains. The second half was warmer than average except for the Eastern Plains which remained cool. The western half of the state was about 2 degrees warmer than average for the month.

September - Some scattered areas of the state averaged more than the average amount of precipitation for the month, but most of the state was dry and warm during September. Most of the precipitation was recorded on just a few days of the month, but there was small amounts of scattered precipitation on most days of the month. Temperatures were uniformly 4-6 degrees above average all month long.

October - Most of the state was wetter than average except for a small area of the foothills which received less than average precipitation. Much of the southern half of the state received two times the average precipitation and the southeast corner and a small portion of the northeast received more than four times the average amount of rain. Widespread precipitation occurred for the first five days; it was dry across the state for the next ten days; and then wet again during the last 6 days of the month. Temperatures were average to 2 degrees above average across most of the state while the northeast corner was slightly below average.

November - Precipitation was above average for about half of the state during November. The Eastern Plains were fairly wet, receiving two times the average precipitation while the northwest corner was below 50 percent of average. Wet days across the state were November 1-3 and 7-10. After the 11th, it was dry across the state for the rest of the month. Temperatures were warmer than normal for the month as a whole as a cooler than average first half of the month was more than offset by a warmer than normal second half.

December - December was very dry. Large portions of the state received less than half the average amount of precipitation and only isolated areas received average amounts while up to two times the average amount of precipitation occurred over an area north of Greeley east to Sterling. Temperatures varied across the state. Very warm days early in the month more than offset several days of sub-zero temperatures toward the end of the month.